



Society for Social Medicine

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2016

Peter WG Tennant, Thursday 15 September 2016

1) 2016 committee representatives

a. Main committee:

Executive officers:		
Aileen Clarke	University of Warwick	President
Simon Capewell	University of Liverpool	Past President
Mark Kelson	Cardiff University	Communications Officer
Anna Pearce	University College London	Honorary Treasurer
Peter Tennant	University of Leeds	Honorary Secretary
Ordinary members:		
Laia Becares	University of Manchester	Newsletter editor
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	One-day workshop officer
Catherine Hayes	University of Sunderland	External relations officer
Hazel Inskip	University of Southampton	Mentorship officer
Claire Niedzwiedz	University of Oxford	Regional liaison officer
Tony Robertson	University of Stirling	New members officer
Kate Tilling	University of Bristol	Scientific officer
Shelina Visram	Durham University	Membership secretary
Subcommittee representatives:		
Sara Ronzi	University of Liverpool	Chair of ECR subcommittee
Lia Demou	University of Glasgow	Chair-Elect of ECR subcommittee
Sheena Ramsay	University College London	Chair of MCR subcommittee
Amy Downing	University of Leeds	Chair-Elect of MCR subcommittee
Co-opted members:		
Steven Oliver	University of York	Chair of ASM LOC 2016
Tarani Chandola	University of Manchester	Chair of ASM LOC 2017
Alastair Leyland	University of Glasgow	EUPHA liaison officer
Ivan Perry	University College Cork	IEA/EEF liaison officer
Ellen Flint	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	ASM co-ordination officer
Emily Murray	University College London	Social Media officer
Administration & support		
Steph Bryant	HG3 Conferences	

b. ECR subcommittee:

Sara Ronzi	University of Liverpool	Chair
Lia Demou	University of Glasgow	Chair-Elect & ECR Gig Trail officer
Dorina Cadar	University College London	Past-Chair & Network Platform officer
Sadie Boniface	King's College London	Social Media officer & ECR Gig Trail officer
Sarah Gibney	University College Dublin	Mentoring officer & Elections officer
Rebecca Lacey	University College London	Social media officer (maternity leave)
Snehal Pinto Pereira	University College London	Elections officer & Email and jobs list officer
Melanie Rimmer	University of Sheffield	Social media officer and Website officer
Kate Bosanquet	University of York	ASM 2016 liaison officer
Noortje Uphoff	University of York	ASM 2016 liaison officer
Kate Best	Newcastle University	Newsletter officer
Linda Ng Fat	University College London	Mentoring officer

c. MCR subcommittee:

Sheena Ramsay	University College London	Chair
Amy Downing	University of Leeds	Chair-Elect
Mark Kelson	Cardiff University	Communications officer
Emily Murray	University College London	TBC
Jo Thompson-Coon	University of Exeter	Newsletter officer
Noriko Cable	University College London	Mentoring officer
Ruth Dundas	University of Glasgow	TBC
Frank de Vocht	University of Bristol	TBC

d. Communications subcommittee:

Mark Kelson	Cardiff University	Chair
Elizabeth Breeze	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	
Noriko Cable	University College London	
Dorina Cadar	University College London	
Melanie Rimmer	University of Sheffield	
Catherine Heffernan	Public Health England	
Anthony Lavery	Imperial College London	
Emily Murray	Imperial College London	
Shelina Visram	Durham University	
Newsletter team		
Laia Bécares	University of Manchester	
Kate Best	Newcastle University	
Sheena McHugh	University College Cork	
Marie Murphy	University of Warwick	

Richard Shaw	University of Glasgow	
Jo Thompson-Coon	University of Exeter	
Administration & support		
Michael Heasman		Webmaster

e. Non-committee roles

Elizabeth Breeze	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Survey Officer
Helen Bromley	University of Liverpool	EUPHA scientific committee representative

2) Departing committee members:

The following members will be ending their sub/committee roles at the end of 2016. I would like to offer my special thanks, on behalf of the committee, for their hugely valuable contributions. I very much hope they consider returning for another role again in the future

a. Main committee

Ellen Flint, Simon Capewell, Steven Oliver*, Sheena Ramsay, Sara Ronzi, Kate Tilling, Shelina Visram

*Although Steven ends his contribution as Chair of the 2016 ASM LOC, he will be reappointed on the main committee in 2017 to facilitate the development of a Senior Career Researcher (SCR) Section.

b. ECR subcommittee

Dorina Cadar, Snehal Pinto Pereira

c. Communications subcommittee

Dorina Cadar

3) Honorary Life Members

The following individuals were awarded with Honorary Life Membership following introduction of a new two-stage nomination and selection process (see 4b). On behalf of the committee, I would like to offer all four members my very warmest congratulations: Mel Bartley, Raj Bhopal, Hazel Inskip, and Catherine Law

4) Main committee activities

a. Surveys and strategic review

Our membership secretary (Shelina Visram) and non-members officer (Tony Robertson) conducted a comprehensive survey of members and non-members, in order to receive feedback on recent reforms and identify opportunities for change and growth. The results are summarised on our website at <https://socsocmed.org.uk/2016/04/04/ssm-members-and-non-members-survey-results/>. These are being used to inform a strategic review of the Society's priorities, which will be supported by an 'away day' of the committee in January 2017

b. Selection of Honorary Life Members

The committee successfully introduced a new approach to the selection of Honorary Life Members, consisting of 1) An open call for nominees from the membership, 2) An anonymous ballot of support among members of the main committee, 3) Appointed members ceremoniously receiving their award at the ASM.

c. Mentoring Scheme

Following an appeal to the membership, Hazel Inskip volunteered for the new committee role of Mentorship Officer. She will primarily facilitate a phased roll-out of our pilot mentorship scheme with deputisation from fellow committee-member Claire Niedzwiedz and support from representatives from the ECR (Linda Ng Fat and Sarah Gibney) and MCR (Noriko Cable) subcommittees.

d. MCR & SCR representation

Following a call for volunteers, the Society formally launched its new Middle Career Researcher Subcommittee, which will focus on serving the Society's MCR Section. Steven Oliver has also volunteered to lead with facilitating the creation of a similar Section and subcommittee for Senior Career Researchers.

e. SSM Champions

Following an audit of our existing members (carried out by membership secretary Shelina Visram and non-members officer Tony Robertson), we are aiming to identify and establish 1-2 SSM 'champions' at each UK and Irish institution conducting research in Social Medicine. The initial aim of these champions will be to raise awareness of the Society and encourage eligible individuals to join. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming an SSM champion.

f. Changes to the format of the ASM

With special thanks to Steven Oliver (chair of the LOC for the 60th ASM), the committee are delighted to introduce a number of innovations to the format and character of the ASM, most prominently including the introduction of a Society Annual Debate, which will inform material for a pre-conference Press Release.

g. Network Platform

With guidance from Mark Kelson (communications) and Dorina Cadar (ECR past-chair), the committee commissioned HG3 to design the first iteration of our newly-launched 'Network Platform' (announced on our website at <https://socsocmed.org.uk/2016/08/01/network-platform-now-live/>). This members-only forum is intended to facilitate cross-institutional collaboration between members at all levels and aid with identifying subject- and discipline- specific expertise within the Society.

h. EU Referendum Position Statement

Prior to the UK referendum on EU membership, the committee balloted members on whether the Society should adopt a public stance on the vote. The respondents overwhelmingly favoured the Society lending its support to the 'Scientists for EU' and 'Healthier In' lobby groups. We therefore issued a public statement on our website (see <https://socsocmed.org.uk/2016/05/24/brexit-a-risk-to-our-nations-health/>), circulated a press release, and shared an opportunity for members to add

their name to a mass letter (ultimately signed by 5000+ UK scientists and published in the Times newspaper). This was unprecedented for the Society in recent years, and the committee would welcome feedback on how this activity was received by members.

i. HSRUK Memorandum of Understanding

President Aileen Clarke and our external relations officer Catherine Hayes have negotiated a memorandum of understanding between the Society and Health Services Research UK. The agreement sets out how both organisations will work together to promote their mutual interests for mutual benefits.

5) Annual Scientific Meetings

a. ASM 2016 (York)

The 60th Annual Scientific Meeting is being held at University of York during 13-16 September 2016. 296 abstracts were received and each was independently scored by four-independent reviewers using the 2015 abstract scoring system. We are thankful to all our reviewers for their hard work and diligence and to Kate Tilling, for her huge effort with moderation. Several reviewers raised concerns about the 2015 scoring system. Although an additional 'interest' domain has been added since last year, this was primarily to aid the committee in secondary decision making (e.g. selecting the three plenary abstracts from the ten highest scoring overall). The committee will review the abstract scoring system before the 2017 call for abstracts.

The 60th ASM will include 96 papers presented in oral parallel session, 3 presented in oral plenary session (chosen by the committee from the 10 highest scoring overall), 168 poster presentations, 5 workshops, and a pre-conference one-day event for early careers researchers. The abstracts for all oral presentations and posters will be published in a supplement of the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, available online from the start of the 60th ASM. The Cochrane lecture will be delivered by Catherine Law and the Pemberton Lecture by Hilary Graham. The event will also see the first annual Society debate, 'This House Supports the Nanny State'. Prizes will be awarded during the final plenary session for the highest scoring abstracts submitted from a pre-PhD ECR and a post PhD ECR, and the best poster presentations on each day (to be judged at the conference). Honorary Life Members in attendance will be profiled for a special exhibit celebrating 60 years of the Society, and our new Honorary Life Members will be awarded with certificates at the civic ceremony.

On behalf of the main and local organising committees, I would like to thank everyone who is presenting an oral or poster presentation at the 60th ASM for their efforts and contributions. Special thanks also to Steven Oliver, the local organising committee, and HG3 for their hard work and diligence preparing the event.

b. ASM 2017 (Manchester)

The 61st Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at University of Manchester during 5th-8th September 2017. The conference is being organised by Tarani Chandola, chair of the 2017 ASM local organising committee.

c. ASM 2018

A verbal update of the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting will be given at the meeting.

6) One-day Meetings and Workshops

The Society launched a new system for the funding of one-day workshops, with funds available to £5000 per event. Two applications were made and both were deemed eligible for funding after peer review and consideration by the committee.

a. **Mediation analysis: Challenges and novel approaches (University of Bristol)**

Laura Howe of the School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol convened a One Day Workshop entitled '*Mediation analysis: Challenges and novel approaches*'. 65 delegates attended and the feedback was very positive. Further details of the day are available on the SSM website at: <https://socsocmed.org.uk/2016/01/14/free-one-day-workshop-mediation-analysis-challenges-and-novel-approaches-bristol-11th-march/>.

b. **Methods for determining pubertal status in cohort and longitudinal studies (University of Southampton)**

Clare Smith and Janis Baird of the MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit in Southampton are hosting a One Day Workshop with a remit to '*Review methods for determining pubertal status in cohort and longitudinal studies*'. It is taking place on 28th September 2016 in Southampton. Further details, including how to register are available on SSM website at <https://socsocmed.org.uk/2016/04/28/free-workshop-on-pubertal-assessment-28th-sept/>.

The Society will be launching the second call for one-day workshop applications in late autumn 2016, details of which will be shared through our various modes of communication.